

REMARKS

Claims 15-27 and claims 45-50 are pending. Claims 1-14 and claims 27-44 are withdrawn. Claim 15 is cancelled. Claim 51 is added.

Claims 15-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,375,688 issued to Akami et al. Claims 19-27 and 45-50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As suggested by the examiner, claims 17, 19, 21 and 46 are amended as independent claims that include the language of original claim 15. Therefore, withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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